

As a consumer and as citizen of the United States of America, I have noticed in recent years, a large surge in the "power" of "Corporate America" over the day to day lives of Americans in recent years. (Unrelated to this FCC topic, this has also resulted in a wider financial gulf between the "haves" and the "have nots", and a seeming effort to squeeze the people that would otherwise be in the middle, towards the "have not" category). Dissenting voices over the airwaves (and in our newspapers) on divisive topics have become very rare these days, since they don't conform to the homogenized corporate ideals that feed the bottom line of the corporations that are "running the show". It is my hope that the Federal Communications Commission performs its duty to the PUBLIC (and not the corporations that have been buying our airwaves and indeed in many cases, through lobbyists, our government itself). It is my belief that the FCC has in recent years cow-towed to the homogenous voices of Corporate America instead of the diverse voices of the American people, and the result has been the consolidation of America's media outlets to fewer and fewer different owners. If major broadcasters are not independently owned, they become just another "arm" by which large corporations extend their control over the public. If our diverse population cannot even buy airtime on a station because the intended advertisement offends the corporate parent of the station, and all the stations are owned by the same or similar corporate parents, then how is the voice of the public (who, by the way, OWN the airwaves) to be heard?

It is my opinion that there ought to be not only limits on station ownership back to the original statutes (it was once 5 AM, 5 FM, 5 TV, and that later became 7+7+7 just after, but now it is virtually a free-for-all with the much higher limits that currently stand to be further watered down) and cross-ownership limitations, but I believe that there ought to be mandates for additional broadcast stations (maybe low power?) to be owned and operated by every village and town.... maybe every zip code or every incorporated village should have 1 AM, 1 FM, and 1 TV station (low power?) run solely by the people of that community. But maybe they should allow advertisements for such an experiment, as a means to defray the cost of running the facilities. This would be different than "NPR" or "PBS" which of course do not have advertisements, and must be supported by our tax dollars and public and private contributions. The bottom line is that the population of America keeps growing, and if anything, the number of unique owners of broadcast outlets should grow in tandem, but the reverse has occurred. The number of broadcast outlets themselves, should be directly proportional to the population, and not "fixed in time" as they seem to have been over the years by the FCC, which has in effect granted broadcasters a monopoly, which has made the airwaves so valuable to the corporations in the first place. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.